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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
REQUEST FOR FILING APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)**

WITHOUT FILING FEE AND/OR WITHOUT EXECUTED INVENTOR'S DECLARATION

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

Atty. Dkt. 2551-141

Date: April 13, 2004

22390 U.S. PTO
10/822871
041304

This is a request for filing a new PATENT APPLICATION under Rule 53(b) entitled:

SYNTHETIC ANTIGENS FOR THE DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES TO HEPATITIS C VIRUS

without a filing fee and/or without an executed inventor's oath/declaration.

This application is made by the below identified inventor(s). Attached hereto are the following papers:

34 pages of specification and claims (including 25 numbered claims), and
8 sheets of accompanying drawing/s for Figures 1 - 2.

Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

Application Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed
PCT/EP91/02409	PCT	13/December/1991
90124241.2	Europe	14/December/1990

, respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..

Certified copy(ies) of foreign application(s) is/are attached.

Certified copy(ies) filed on _____ in prior application no. PCT/EP91/02409 filed 13/December/1991

This application is a continuation/ division/ continuation-in-part of Application No. 10/044,995, filed January 15, 2002 (pending), which is a divisional of Application No. 09/941,611, filed August 30, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,576,417), which in turn is a divisional of Application No. 09/275,265, filed March 23, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,287,761), which in turn is a continuation of Application No. 08/391,671, filed February 21, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,922,532), which is a continuation of Application No. 07/920,286, filed October 14, 1992, abandoned, which is a 371 of PCT/EP91/02409, filed December 31, 1991, which claims benefit of EP 90124241, filed December 14, 1990. Issued U.S. Patent Nos. 5,910,404 and 6,007,982 are similarly continuation applications of Application No. 08/391,671, filed February 21, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,922,532), which is a continuation of Application No. 07/920,286, filed October 14, 1992, abandoned, which is a 371 of PCT/EP91/02409, filed December 13, 1991, which claims benefit of EP 90124241, filed December 14, 1990, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

The prior application is assigned to INNOGENETICS, S.A., Ghent, Belgium.

It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the above parent application(s) by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A listing of that art is attached, but pursuant to Rule 98(d) copies are not required.

Please enter the attached preliminary amendment prior to calculation of filing fee:

Also attached: Information Disclosure Statement; Non-Publication Request; Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission; Statement deleting Inventor(s) named in prior application; Other:
8 sheets formal drawings; Request & Sequence Listing filed 1/15/2002 in parent application

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See attached sheet(s) for additional inventor(s) information!!

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NOTE: FOR ADDITIONAL INVENTORS, check box and attach sheet with same information and signature and date for each.